

APPENDIX 5: DESCRIPTIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROPERTIES BY REGION

NORTHWOODS

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 480,000 acres in the Northwoods Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest



Established in 1925 to protect the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish rivers, the Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest is the largest state-owned property and occupies more than 232,000 acres in Iron, Vilas, and Oneida counties. The property is extensively wooded, mostly with young to middle-aged forests that provide employment and economic support to rural and urban communities through the production of forest products, recreation and tourism.

The property's 18 campgrounds provide a diversity of experiences – from modern, fully-developed campgrounds to remote sites on quiet lakes. With 900 lakes and many miles of streams, water-based recreation is a primary attraction at the NHAL. Some lakes are very remote and provide wilderness experiences while others are heavily used by motorboats and water-skiers. Boating, canoeing, and fishing are supported by over 100 boat launches. Hunting and trapping are popular activities and access into areas is facilitated by a network of hundreds of miles of logging roads.

The recent construction of a series of paved biking trails, some connecting campgrounds to local communities, others linking communities, has proven to be very popular and provided an opportunity to connect campers with restaurants, stores, and other businesses. Extensive and high-quality mountain biking trails are popular with local residents and visitors.

Cold-weather activities have been a staple on the NHAL and with over 400 miles of snowmobile trails; the area has long been a winter destination.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage



The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area is located in southern Iron County. Formed by a dam constructed in 1926 near the confluence of the Flambeau and Turtle rivers that flooded 16 named lakes, the flowage connects several large public properties (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake State Wildlife Area, and Iron County Forest) and the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation.

The 35,000-acre property (including about 14,000 acres of water covered by the flowage) hosts a popular network of 60 island campsites serviced by 6 boat access sites. Remote rustic camping and high-quality fishing are the two biggest draws for the property. Campsites are spaced far apart and accessible by boat only, giving campers a wilderness like experience of camping on an island and off the road system. The flowage is one of northern Wisconsin's gems with endless fishing opportunities. The fish community is highly diverse and has something to offer every angler, although is most famous for a high-density walleye fishery. The musky fishery has a history of producing world-class fish and smallmouth bass fishing is excellent.

Wildlife viewing is also a popular draw for visitors with a rich diversity of wildlife habitat. Eagles, loons and osprey are abundant on the property as well as nesting populations of merlin and the rare black tern. The Little Turtle Waterfowl

Management Area offers opportunities to see nesting tree swallows, trumpeter swans, and an abundance of waterfowl during the spring and fall migration.

Willow Flowage



With limited development and access, the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area is a large island studded reservoir with a truly wild flavor. The property is located in west central Oneida County and includes 73 miles of shoreline (95 percent of which is undeveloped), 106 islands, and 7 boat landings. The DNR-managed portion of the property, including the flowage, encompasses more than 30,000 acres where hunting, fishing, paddling, and hiking opportunities abound.

Surrounded by swamps, bogs and other watery lowlands, the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area was created in 1926 with the damming of the Tomahawk River; the flowage is downstream from the confluence with the Willow River. The property's remoteness, along with its natural shoreline, draws visitors from around the state and region. The Willow Flowage supports a diversity of aquatic plants, fish, and wildlife, including abundant walleye and panfish populations, along with northern pike, muskellunge, and large and smallmouth bass. White-tailed deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, eagles, and loons frequent the property.

There are 33 rustic campsites scattered along the shoreline and islands; all campsites are occupied on a first come-first served basis with no registration, no reservations, and no fees. Campsite amenities include a fire ring (with cooking grill), picnic table, and outdoor toilet.

An active forestry program is in place on the Willow Flowage to maintain prime wildlife habitat, emphasize forest diversity, and to promote a natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance. Future thinnings of selected trees and occasional prescribed burns will help restore the shoreline to historic forest conditions dominated by long-lived tree species such as red and white pine.

Pine-Popple Wild Rivers



The entire 89-mile length of the Pine River and the 62 miles of its major tributary, the Popple River, were designated by the Wisconsin legislature as State Wild Rivers in 1965 to be protected from development and kept in a natural, free-flowing condition. Being among Wisconsin's more remote river systems, the Pine and Popple Rivers offer a true wild experience. The area is rugged and undeveloped. Access is limited and often difficult. Both the Pine and Popple Rivers are born in the vast forests and swamps of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Mid-way along their courses the rivers leave the national forest and enter the Pine-Popple Wild River project area managed by the DNR. The DNR's project area includes the lower 12 miles of the Popple River and the lower 33 miles of the Pine River, ending with the Pine at the Menominee River. The DNR owns about 11,000 acres for conservation and public recreation purposes within the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers property.

The shorelines are heavily wooded with sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock and white cedar on the upper stretches and aspen, silver and red maple, white and jack pine the most common trees on the lower reaches. The rivers' moods alternate from quiet sections that meander lazily through lowland forest to swift rocky riffles, low rapids, and waterfalls. These rivers offer high quality paddling and fishing in a secluded, natural environment.

The private property in the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest is under a conservation easement, open to the public for recreational uses including hiking, hunting, and fishing. Certain trails and roads across both public and private property are open for vehicle access, snowmobile and all-terrain vehicles as posted. The We Energies lands are also open to the public, except for the areas near the dam and power generating facilities, which are closed for public safety and security reasons.

Upper Wolf River Fishery Area



The Upper Wolf River Fishery Area is comprised of just over 9,000 acres of state-owned land along the Wolf River in Langlade County. About 95 percent of the Upper Wolf River watershed is wooded and wild. Flowing south from its origin in southern Forest County, five principal tributaries join the Wolf River in Langlade County including Swamp Creek, Pickerel Creek, Hunting River, Lily River, and Ninemile Creek. The Upper Wolf River has long been recognized for its aesthetically pleasing characteristics - a wide, boulder-strewn, natural, undeveloped stream with a rapid gradient in many locations.

Fish species inhabiting the Upper Wolf River include brook, brown and rainbow trout, large and smallmouth bass, northern pike, musky, walleye and numerous species of pan fish and forage minnows. Trout are most prevalent from County Highway T downstream to the county line. Smallmouth bass inhabit the entire length of river in Langlade County. Walleye, northern pike, musky and bass are generally found in the upper portion of the Wolf River in the area from Post Lake dam downstream to Lily.

The Upper Wolf River has become a major destination for whitewater sports. Several commercial rental, outfitters, and guide companies offer whitewater rafting on the Wolf River. The Wolf River is annually the site of privately sponsored races for rafts, canoes, and kayaks, which draw hundreds of contestants and thousands of spectators.

Pershing Wildlife Area



Pershing Wildlife Area consists of approximately 7,900 acres in west central Taylor County. The property is comprised of two units that encompass over 1,000 acres of wetlands (including 15 flowages, runoff ponds and potholes). Approximately 3,000 acres of brush-prairie is managed (in conjunction with the wetlands) through periodic rotations of prescribed burning. The remaining 3,000 acres is managed in scattered blocks of aspen and northern swamp hardwood forest.

The property is managed for sharp-tailed grouse, waterfowl and other open wetland, grassland and brush-prairie species. The forested acreage is managed for ruffed grouse and other upland game and non-game species.

Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area



Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area is an 8,700-acre property that dates back to 1945 with the purchase of 1,600 acres of land that was known as the Price Creek deer yard. In 1963 the DNR obtained a gift of 5,240 acres near the deer yard from the Kimberly-Clark Corporation and since then supplemental purchases have increased the property to its current size.

The property consists of bracken fern grasslands, upland aspen/fir, northern hardwoods and tamarack/black spruce bog. A small remnant sharptail grouse (a game bird that is of high conservation concern) population lives on the property and surrounding lands. In the early 1990s, this wildlife area had the second highest population of sharptail grouse in the state.

Today this property is primarily managed for sharptail grouse, deer, turkey and bear. Prescribed burning is used to maintain about 4,000 acres of early successional habitat for sharptail grouse. Deer, wolves, coyotes, badgers, foxes, sandhill cranes and numerous other species use these open areas regularly. This wildlife area is close to current herds of reintroduced elk and it is expected that elk will be residents of the wildlife area in the foreseeable future.

Over 17 miles of firebreaks have been created and several small flowages are maintained for waterfowl and wild rice production. The remaining acreage is managed for wood fiber production.

Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area



Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area is a 13,800-acre property located 8 miles northeast of Park Falls in Ashland and Iron Counties. The property adjoins the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area to the east and the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest to the south. The Flambeau River, an Outstanding Resource Water, lies in close proximity.

The property is heavily timbered with aspen, northern hardwoods and lowland conifer.

This property was initiated in 1946 as part of the "deer yard" acquisition program. Today, this property is heavily timbered with aspen, northern hardwoods and lowland conifer and is primarily managed for whitetail deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock and bears. Commercial timber harvest is the main habitat management tool and follows a harvest prescription designed to meet project goals while being silviculturally sound.

This area also has a vast network of gated hunter walking trails and wildlife openings. In addition to hunting and trapping activities, great berry picking, off-trail snowshoeing, birding and wildlife watching opportunities exist.

Powell Marsh Wildlife Area



Powell Marsh State Wildlife Area is approximately 4,300 acres located in southwestern Vilas County adjacent to the Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest. Powell Marsh is not a true marsh, but rather a large peatland complex containing several wetland types and plant communities. Several small flowages and small lakes are on the property. The primary plant communities at the property include:

- ☐ Open water flowages with submerged and floating aquatic plants
- ☐ Unforested wetlands, comprised of sedge meadows, alder and willow fens, and bogs with low shrubs, sphagnum moss and stunted spruce and tamarack
- ☐ Forested wetlands of black spruce and tamarack
- ☐ Grassy upland islands
- ☐ Upland forest of aspen, white birch, red maple, red oak and white pine

Today, Powell Marsh Wildlife Area provides significant opportunities for wildlife-based recreation, particularly waterfowl hunting and birding opportunities. Users are drawn to the area because this scenic open area is much different than surrounding forested habitat. Dike infrastructure allows for hiking, hunting, trapping and birdwatching experiences. The diversity of wildlife species draws visitors who enjoy the open expanse; many local residents utilize this property for getting exercise (walking and hiking, taking their dogs on walks etc.). This property is listed as an Important Bird Area and draws birdwatchers from all over the state.

Management emphasizes habitat for waterfowl and species that require open wetland and grassland habitat. A combination of prescribed fire, hand cutting, mowing and shearing is used to limit the growth of shrubs and tamarack, while increasing the abundance of grasses and sedges.

Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area



At over 6,500 acres, Spread Eagle Barrens is one of the largest State Natural Areas in Wisconsin. The department's ownership here, in combination with lands managed by We Energies, Florence County, and others, protects a huge landscape of bracken grassland and barrens dominated by scattered jack pine, red pine, scrub oak, and quaking aspen. The sandy soils support an understory of sedges, bracken and sweet fern, slender wheat grass, muhly grass, poverty oats, hazelnut, serviceberry, blueberry, and willows. Frost pockets, treeless depressions where frost may occur at any time of

year, punctuate the landscape. Sedges, lichens, and other plant species have adapted to this harsh microclimate and are able to dominate these low-lying areas.

The lower reaches of the Pine River, a designated Wild River, traverse the site and the Menominee River forms the property's eastern boundary. Management activities such as timber harvest and prescribed burning help maintain the open landscape. Spread Eagle Barrens is owned by the DNR and WE Energies and was designated a State Natural Area in 1995.

Council Grounds State Park



Nestled in a bend of the Wisconsin River and a dam forming the Alexander Flowage, Council Grounds State Park is located on the western side of Merrill. Historically, the site was used as a gathering area by the Chippewa Tribe for annual festivities. In later years, between the 1870s and early 1900s, immense rafts of logs were sorted here on their way to sawmills downstream. The 505-acre park is heavily wooded and has over 12,000 feet of water frontage.

The property has a 55-unit family campground (with about one-third of the sites with electric hook-ups), as well as three group campsites. In addition are picnic grounds, boat launch, accessible fishing pier, beach, and various trails.

Krueger Pines State Natural Area, a 29-acre site, features an old-growth northern dry-mesic forest dominated by an even-aged stand of white pine, some as large as two feet in diameter. Red pine is also present along with paper birch, big-tooth aspen, white oak, and black oak. Canopy birds include eastern wood pewee, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, red-eyed vireo, blackburnian and pine warblers, and scarlet tanager.

In April 2011, a tornado went through the eastern portion of the park, including part of Krueger Pines State Natural Area. Timber harvesting has focused on removing trees that blocked roads, were hazards, or were heavily damaged and could serve as a source for growing populations of wood damaging insects.

Table 1. Selected additional properties in the Northwoods Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Langlade	Ackley Wildlife Area	1,149
Oneida	Bearskin State Trail	559
Lincoln	Bill Cross Wildlife Area	1,523
Langlade	Evergreen River Fishery Area	1,391
Price, Iron	Flambeau River State Forest	9,650
Lincoln	State Ice Age Trail Areas	2,230
Forest	Little Rice Wildlife Area	2,627
Lincoln, Oneida	Menard Island Resource Area	1,744
Iron	Moose Lake State Natural Area	3,790
Lincoln	New Wood Wildlife Area	2,642
Forest, Florence	Nicolet State Trail	448
Langlade	Peters Marsh Wildlife Area	1,681
Langlade, Lincoln	Prairie River Fishery Area	1,924
Price	Spring Creek Wildlife Area	1,003
Lincoln, Langlade, Forest, Iron, Price, Oneida, Florence, Vilas	State Owned Islands	668
Oneida	Thunder Lake Wildlife Area	3,075

Iron	Underwood Wildlife Area	1,602
Forest, Langlade	Wolf River State Trail	494
Oneida	Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area	3,329
Langlade	Woods Flowage Fishery Area	1,232

UPPER LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 110,000 acres in the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Peshtigo River State Forest



Located in Marinette and Oconto counties, the Peshtigo River State Forest is a pocket of mature forest and recreational opportunity in northeastern Wisconsin. It allows access to two of the largest flowages in the area as well as the Peshtigo River.

While simultaneously providing a diversity of forest products, the Forest also supports a variety of recreation opportunities and high-quality wildlife habitat. The flowages offer food, water and shelter for a range of creatures including songbirds, turkeys, white-tail deer, black bears, and butterflies.

In the winter, 20 miles of snowmobile trails connect with the regional trail network and these trails are also open to ATV usage. A number of unmarked trails, rustic roads, and hunter-walking trails are open to cross-country skiing and hiking. These trails may also be used for horseback riding and mountain biking.

In addition to the plentiful access to water within the forest, the forest provides two beaches for visitors to indulge in over the summer months.

Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area



The Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area has an enchanting chronicle of human occupation, beginning with the Native Americans who used the bay resources and adjacent land. From there, a number of missions and trading posts were established by the French, British, and Americans from the 1700's to 1800's. More recently, the area was inundated with lumber mills, supportive for a small commercial fishing industry, and tilled for agriculture.

In the 1930's, the government became involved with the conservation of the West Shore. Wildlife area units were slowly accumulated through the 1970's, and resulted in an over 5,000-acre area dedicated to wildlife habitat and wildlife based recreation focusing on waterfowl, wetland-dependent wildlife, migratory birds, and forest game species.

Pike Wild River



Comprised of around 310 square miles of rock outcrop and forests of all types, the Pike Wild River watershed has a vast network of small spring seeps and large lakes that contribute to its wild and scenic qualities. A 150-foot no buffer zone allows for older growth forest habitat and plentiful rapids and waterfalls that leap through the area.

Visitors are attracted to the Pike Wild River primarily for canoeing and kayaking, but a number of hunting, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife watching opportunities exist. Species such as the red-shouldered hawk and wood turtle are present in the area, drawing in wildlife enthusiasts. Lake sturgeon may also be seen migrating through the area. On the water, rapids and waterfalls make for a challenging river course. The upper reaches of the river are especially difficult to canoe, but are fantastic locations for trout fishing.

Collins Marsh Wildlife Area



The Collins Marsh Wildlife Area is comprised of 4,200 acres of marsh, wetlands, grasslands, and bottomland hardwood forest. In 1946, the area was leased by the state as public hunting grounds; in 1959, the land purchasing process was initiated. A large dam, as well as many smaller impoundments were created throughout the late mid to late 1900's to add more wetland habitat.

The marsh is primarily managed for wetland wildlife, including osprey, herons, muskrats, and otters. Grassy areas also provide refuge for ring-necked pheasants, cottontail rabbits, bobolinks, and sandhill cranes – attracting both hunters and wildlife watchers alike.

Peninsula State Park



Complete with rolling waves and towering bluffs, Peninsula State Park provides picturesque scenic views alongside ample recreational opportunities. Over the summer, visitors can enjoy a show at the Northern Sky Theater, tour the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, or play a round of golf at a six-hole learning Short Course. The bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment cultivate microhabitats for rare crustaceans, snails, ferns, and delicate flowers, and are explorable by land and water. Fishing for smallmouth bass, rock bass, and brown trout is also available at Weborg Pier. Wintertime reveals plenty of opportunity for snowshoeing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and sledding and tubing.

Established in 1909, Peninsula State Park has served a number of roles within the community. In the early 1900's, initial towers and campgrounds were constructed and a sawmill, game farm, and camp for girls all found a home on the property. The mid-1900's saw the advent of modern facilities, including flush toilets, sinks, and showers added to campgrounds. A number of trails are established for visitors. The last hereditary chief of the Potawatomi nation, Chief Simon Kahquados, was buried near the Memorial Pole – which was continuously restored and maintained.

Today, Peninsula State Park is lauded for its beautiful landscape and opportunities for an incredible range of visitors, making it one of Wisconsin's most popular state parks.

Point Beach State Forest



Lining the shores of Lake Michigan, the 3,000-acre Point Beach State Forest has six miles of sandy beach that allow visitors to embrace Lake Michigan's natural beauty and power. Swimming and fishing are popular along the shore. Hiking and biking trails wind through the forest and ridges. Furthermore, for hikers, three State Natural Areas provide a space for local flora and fauna, including the sand dune willow, and hikers seeking to immerse themselves in the natural world.

In the 1800's, 26 ships were foundered or stranded on the point – including 20 schooners, a barge, two steamers, and three brigs. Since 1853, the Rawley Point Lighthouse has been in operation by the U.S. Coast Guard and the tragedies have

ceased. The lighthouse stands 113 feet above Lake Michigan, and is hailed as one of the largest and brightest on the Great Lakes.

Newport State Park



Located at the tip of the Door County Peninsula, Newport State Park is Wisconsin's only formally-designated wilderness park. Made up of over 2,000 acres and 11 miles of Lake Michigan shorelines, the park allows for visitors to escape the busyness of Door County. Over 30 miles of hiking trails through evergreen and hardwood forests, wetlands, and upland meadows are dotted with hike-in campsites.

In the evening, the open skies of the park twinkle with the light of distant stars, delighting both casual stargazers and astronomers. Through a rigorous application process, the International Dark-Sky Association has designated the park as a Dark Sky Park, affirming the park's commitment to dark skies.

Potawatomi State Park



Potawatomi State Park is named after the tribe that inhabited Green Bay's shores and islands when the Europeans first arrived. The tribe was called Bo-De-Wad-Me, meaning keeper of the fire. Over time, the spelling and pronunciation were changed to Potawatomi.

The park is lined along Sturgeon Bay with the bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment. Paddlers have an opportunity to explore the shoreline from the water. SCUBA diving and water skiing are also popular, and the park acts as a home base for these visitors. Dense forests of sugar maple, basswood, white pine, and beech trees are common, with wildflowers blooming in the summer and fall. Wildlife viewers will enjoy the thrill of potential deer, hawk, shorebird, raccoon, opossum, and chipmunk sightings. Over 200 bird species have been reported as migrants or residents.

Whitefish Dunes State Park



From 100 B.C. to the late 1800's, eight separate occupations have dominated Whitefish Dunes State Park. The land's suitability for settlement was largely attributed to the availability of lake sturgeon, walleyes, lake trout, and white fish as well as shoreline with high fishing productivity and diversity. This prolific fishing habitat also harbored rare plants and stunning sand dunes, which gained attention in the 1930's as an area that needed protection. In 1967, the Whitefish Dunes State Park was established. The Whitefish Dunes State Natural Area followed in 1982.

Miles of hiking trails allow visitors to explore and awe in the impressive forces that shaped the park's sand dunes. Mammals such as the beaver, deer, fox, porcupine, coyote, and squirrel may be seen throughout the park. Birds life is plentiful and diverse. Beyond fauna, the sand dunes host unique plant communities; the harsh wind-driven sand and hot sun make growing conditions especially difficult. Dune goldenrod, dune thistle, dwarf lake iris, and sand reedgrass are a few species that are able to persist in this tough environment.

Table 2. Selected additional properties in the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Door, Kewaunee	Ahnapee State Trail	582
Kewaunee	C.D. (Buzz) Besadny Fish and Wildlife Area	2713
Oconto	Copper Culture Mounds State Park	42

Brown, Manitowoc	Devil's River State Trail	283
Manitowoc	Fischer Creek Recreation Area	123
Brown	Fox River State Trail	210
Marinette	Governor Thompson State Park	2966
Door	Grand Traverse Island State Park	27
Brown	Heritage Hill State Park	55
Brown	Lost Dauphin State Park	19
Marinette	Menominee River State Recreation Area	4766
Brown, Oconto	Mountain-Bay State Trail	209
Oconto	Nicolet State Trail	632
Oconto	Oconto River State Trail	90
Door	Rock Island State Park	912
Kewaunee, Manitowoc	State Ice Age Trail Areas	133
Manitowoc	Two Creeks State Park	25

GREAT NORTHWEST

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 426,000 acres in the Great Northwest Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Flambeau River State Forest



The beautiful, shining waters of the Flambeau River flow through the Flambeau River State Forest, providing ample opportunity for paddling and fishing. The North Fork of the river offers easier routes and is ideal for novice paddlers, whereas the South Fork is well-suited for advanced paddlers. Musky, sturgeon, trout, walleye, bass, and panfish can be also caught in the river. During the appropriate hunting season, the land is open to the public for hunting bear, waterfowl, deer, and grouse. Miles of trails offer adventure for ATV riders, cross-country skiers, hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers.

The forest is also home to a number of notable natural features, including the Sobieski Flowage and Bass Lake. The Sobieski Flowage was once a cranberry farm, but has since transitioned into a waterfowl nesting area with several miles of hunter walking trails. Bass Lake is a designated wilderness lake that allows fishing, hunting, and sightseeing opportunities, but no motors or camping.

Brule River State Forest



Hailed for over 100 years as an estimable trout stream, all 44 miles of the Bois Brule River reside within the Brule River State Forest. The river valley was shaped by meltwater flowing south from Glacial Lake Superior, carving both the Bois Brule River Valley as well as the St. Croix River Valley. The area today is home to Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout. Both trout, and Coho and Chinook Salmon also migrate annually up from Lake Superior.

While the upper river (southern portion) winds through miles of coniferous bogs, as soon as the river crosses the Copper Range it begins tumbling and cascading between steep river bluffs as it races towards Lake Superior. This diversity leads to a number of opportunities to fish, paddle, view wildlife, and hike. Rare birds such as the black-backed woodpecker, white-winged crossbill, merlin, and goshawk have been spotted on the property.

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area



Composed of 30,000 acres of soft, rolling wetlands, brush prairies, and forests, the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is part of the Northwest Wisconsin Pine Barrens, formed by the carving of Glacial Lake Grantsburg. The area is a critical Important Bird Area that provides landscape-level management options for pine-oak barrens, northern sedge meadows and marshes, and emergent marsh and wild river habitats. It is also a Land Legacy Place and Conservation Opportunity Area for pine-oak barrens of global significance.

The area attracts visitors throughout all seasons, primarily to view wildlife. The Education and Visitor Center is home to a sales area, information center, library, auditorium, and exhibit and classroom area that allow for further interpretive experiences and for visitors to learn more about the natural world. Hunters and trappers also find opportunity in the area, as bear, deer, waterfowl, small game, and sharp-tailed grouse are popular.

Governor Knowles State Forest



In 1981, the St. Croix River State Forest was re-designated as the Governor Knowles State Forest, in honor of Governor Warren P. Knowles, an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. The forest serves as an extended resource protection zone for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, encompassing a designated wilderness zone and six state natural areas.

In addition to natural resources protection, the forest allows visitors to indulge in the riverway's natural beauty through hiking, biking, paddling, horseback riding, and a number of other activities. Whitetail deer, turkey, black bear, squirrel, ruffed grouse, and woodcock can be seen throughout the forest. On the water, several trout streams and access to the St. Croix River allow for opportunities to catch small mouth bass, trout, walleye, catfish, musky, and sturgeon.

Chippewa Flowage



Chippewa Flowage, a 15,300-acre impoundment, is spotted with about 200 undeveloped islands and a 233-mile highly irregular, wooded, and generally undeveloped shoreline. The wild, uncrowded atmosphere draws visitors seeking respite from the built environment and to surround themselves within the natural world. Throughout the Midwest, the Chippewa Flowage is regarded as a premier destination for water-related recreation. It is home to some of the finest musky and walleye fishing, as well as a seemingly endless maze of islands, points, bays, floating bogs, and channels.

The landscape is a pattern of rolling hills, valleys, streams, and bogs that are reminiscent of the land's glacial origins. Shorelines are forested with a mixture of aspen, birch, pine, northern hardwoods, and oak. A number of species iconic to Northern Wisconsin, including the bald eagle, osprey, and loon, can be found on the flowage.

Copper Falls State Park



One of Wisconsin's most scenic parks, Copper Falls State Park has a deep history filled with ancient lava flows, spectacular gorges and picturesque waterfalls. Iron-rich waters from deep in the earth were forced into local sediments, producing gorgeous copper ore. Thousands of cubic miles of lava then oozed from deep fissures within the present-day Lake Superior, creating layers and layers of earth, now visible in Copper Falls State Park. As the basin settled, sand, boulders, and mud entered and the earth's tectonic activity pushed and pulled at these forming layers. Ultimately, these forces are what contributed to the stunning colors and varied terrain of Copper Falls State Park.

Squirrels, wolves, porcupines, deer, fishers, black bears, among other animals, make their home in the park and over 200 species of birds either migrate through or reside within the park. The 500-acre area surrounding the falls has been designated as a State Natural Area.

Big Bay State Park



Located on Madeline Island, Big Bay State Park is nestled within the Apostle Islands and a short ferry away from Bayfield. The Apostle Islands are relics of sedimentary rocks deposited in the Lake Superior Basin over 600 million years ago. The park offers a 1.5-mile beach, family and group camping, picnic areas, and short boardwalk. Seven miles of hiking trails meander through the island's pine forests, lagoon, and wetlands, with viewing opportunities for over 200 species of birds.

Totagatic Wild River



Winding through Bayfield, Sawyer, Washburn, Douglas, and Burnett counties, the Totagatic Wild River is a natural treasure full of diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, excellent water quality, beautiful scenery, and wonderful fishing and paddling opportunities. Designated as a "Wild River", the Totagatic Wild River is under one of the highest levels of stream protection allowed by Wisconsin State Statute. It is a popular fishing destination for trout and smallmouth bass.

Pattison State Park



Featuring the highest waterfalls in Wisconsin, Pattison State Park has a tumultuous geologic history that began with a layer of basalt formed by the solidification of ancient lava flows. As the lava cooled, great oceans covered the area and brought sand, silt, and sediment to the area. This formed layers of light-colored sedimentary rock called Lake Superior sandstone. Furthermore, the Douglas Fault that runs through the park created breccia, as well as fractures that filled with copper, gold, and silver. Big Manitou Falls, Wisconsin's tallest waterfall, stands at 165 feet high and highlights the unique geology of the park.

The remainder of the park has a lake with a beach, nature center, camping, and miles of hiking trails with potential for wildlife sightings.

Interstate State Park



Established in 1900, Interstate State Park is Wisconsin's oldest state park. Located along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and encompassing portions of the Ice Age Trail, hikers, campers, and paddlers, among others, can rejoice in the park's natural wonders as they explore trails that twist and turn through the riverway. Fishers, hunters, and trappers will also find ample opportunity to pursue a variety of wildlife.

The Ice Age Interpretive Center features a film, photographs, murals and information about the great glaciers. At the end of the Ice Age, as the glaciers melted, the water shaped a deep, steep-walled gorge known as the Dalles of the St. Croix. This area has been designated a State Natural Area, along with the Interstate Lowland Forest and Centennial Bedrock Glade.

Table 3. Selected additional properties in the Great Northwest Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Douglas	Amnicon Falls State Park	826
Bayfield	Bibon Swamp Natural Area	9,749
Barron, Polk	Cattail State Trail	228
Burnett	Fish Lake Wildlife Area	13,443
Burnett, Douglas, Polk	Gandy Dancer State Trail	809
Douglas	North Country National Scenic Trail	708
Douglas	Saunders State Trail	207
Bayfield	South Shore Lake Superior Fish and Wildlife Area	7,964
Polk	State Ice Age Trail Areas	1,356
Douglas	St. Louis River Stream Bank Area	6,864
Burnett	State Owned Islands	77
Polk	Stower Seven Lakes State Trail	177
Polk	Straight Lake Wilderness State Park	1,717
Barron, Price, Sawyer, Washburn	Tuscobia State Trail	820
Barron, Douglas, Washburn	Wild Rivers State Trail	1133

LAKE WINNEBAGO WATERS

The Department of Natural Resources owns over 150,000 acres in the Lake Winnebago Waters Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Navarino Wildlife Area



The Navarino Wildlife Area is comprised of about 15,000 acres of sandy uplands and ridges with marshy depressions. The area is filled with open fields, swamp conifer, lowland scrub, bog, bottomland hardwoods, pine plantations, and aspen and oak forests, providing habitat for a diversity of species.

Additionally, the property provides picnic areas, a nature center, hiking trails, groomed ski trails, and a canoe launch for visitors to enjoy.

Glacial Habitat Restoration Area



Throughout Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties, a series of glacial habitat restoration areas exist to restore, create, and maintain habitat for waterfowl, wild pheasants, and non-game songbirds. Accordingly, these stretches of open prairie, woodlands, and wetlands attract a large community of both resident and migratory birdlife and are fantastic birding destinations. The areas are also open to hunting during permitted seasons.

White River Marsh Wildlife Area



On March 30, 1962, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission approved the first Land Acquisition on the White River Marsh. The area was largely farmed and wetlands were drained. Today, the 12,000-acre White River Marsh Wildlife Area fosters a diverse landscape of open marsh, wet meadow, swamp hardwoods, tamarack swamp, upland prairie, oak savanna, and shrub carr. Hiking and cross-country skiing without a designated trail are available for intrepid recreators.

Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area



In the 1930's and 1940's, the area that would become the present-day Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area was admired for its wildlife and waterfowl habitat. Local sportsman's clubs supported its conversion into a wildlife refuge, ultimately culminating in state acquisition on February 21, 1958. The uplands and marsh were farmed and grazed; marsh hay, including reed canary and wire grass, was an important crop.

To explore the area, visitors are welcome to bike, hike, canoe, or cross-country ski around the property. Hunting for pheasant is especially popular.

Killsnake Wildlife Area



In 1956, Manitowoc County purchased the first land for the area, initially set up as a goose satellite area. Over the years, the property has transformed into an area for both agriculture and prairie restoration. Acres of prairie grasslands, uplands, bottomland hardwood forest, cedar swamp, tamarack and bog, and agriculture span the property, providing habitat for birds ranging from raptors to sandhill cranes to bobolinks. The confluence of several rivers, including the Manitowoc and Killsnake Rivers, also boasts a wealth of archaeological history.

Hartman Creek State Park



Along the stunning, spring-fed Chain O' Lakes, Hartman Creek State Park is 1,500 acres of peaceful and rejuvenating natural beauty. Initially home to a hops house, the park area eventually transitioned to raising dairy and to, most recently, fish. On July 22, 1966, Hartman Creek State Park was officially opened.

Hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails meander through the park's numerous lakes. On the water, paddlers and swimmers alike are welcome to explore and or relax on the beach. Fishing for largemouth bass, perch, bluegill, and other panfish are popular since the area was once used as a fish hatchery.

High Cliff State Park



Lining the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago, the Niagara Escarpment's limestone cliffs of High Cliff State Park offer breathtaking views of the surrounding areas. A 40-foot observation tower allows for climbers to see as far as Appleton, Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha, and Kaukauna.

The park is of significance to the nomadic Siouan Indians, who built a number of effigy mounds throughout the park, including four panther-shaped mounds, two buffalo-shaped mounds, conical mounds, and a linear mound. A 12-foot statue of Winnebago Indian Chief Red Bird, perched upon a granite rock, watches over the lake.

Beyond historical and cultural significance, the area also has exceptional natural beauty. Squirrels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, and other critters live in the area. The High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area rests within the park, lauded for its cliff environments, undisturbed wet-mesic forest, and over a mile of Lake Winnebago shoreline. The park is also well known for its warbler migration in the spring.

Table 4. Selected additional properties in the Lake Winnebago Waters Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Calumet	Brillion Wildlife Area	4824
Fond Du Lac	Campbellsport Drumlin State Park	10
Fond Du Lac	Eisenbahn State Trail	154
Fond Du Lac	Eldorado Wildlife Area	6379
Calumet	Fox River State Trail	84
Calumet, Winnebago	Friendship State Trail	10
Fond Du Lac	Mascoutin Valley State Trail	45
Outagamie	Newton Blackmour State Trail	291
Waushara	Poygan Marsh Wildlife Area	3617
Winnebago	Rat River Wildlife Area	4554
Waupaca, Waushara	State Ice Age Trail Areas	779
Waupaca	Tomorrow River State Trail	192
Waushara	White River Fishery Area	3436
Fond Du Lac	Wild Goose State Trail	200
Shawano, Outagamie	Wiouwash State Trail	229

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 140,000 acres in the Mississippi River Corridor Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Tiffany Wildlife Area



Over 13,000 acres in size, the Tiffany Wildlife Area contains one of Wisconsin's largest, continuous bottomland hardwood forests. Beaver dams and old river meanders have shaped an intricate network of ponds and wetlands. Wildlife such as deer, ruffed grouse, and beaver can be seen throughout the area.

This forested expanse, including a diverse range of oaks, creates a fascinating landscape for hikers, paddlers, hunters, and wildlife lovers to explore.

Muddy Creek Wildlife Area



Also known affectionately as the Elk Mound Swamp, the 4,100-acre Muddy Creek Wildlife Area follows the Muddy Creek near the village of Elk Mound. A number of wooded and prairie islands are scattered across the predominantly marsh and sedge meadow wetland. The southern end of the property is a State Natural Area, featuring a transitional zone between northern and southern sedge meadows.

Historically, landowners have attempted to drain the marsh, leaving remnants of linear ditches strewn throughout the marsh. Beavers have made use of these ditches to create impoundments and further shape the landscape. Today, the area is subject to a variety of management techniques to provide food and habitat for both local and migrating wildlife. The diversity of visiting wildlife provides opportunities for birding and hiking.

Kickapoo Wildlife Area



Featuring a stunning array of ridges and valleys iconic to the driftless area, the Kickapoo River Wildlife Area is comprised of over 1,000 acres of upland forests. These forests are among the largest and most intact of the driftless area, leading to the area's designation as an Important Bird Area for forest and savanna birds alike. These include the red-shouldered hawk, Acadian flycatcher, wood thrush, Bell's vireo, bobolink, and eastern meadowlark.

Ample opportunity for birding and wildlife viewing exist. Hunting is also allowed, especially noted for waterfowl, woodcock, deer, wildlife turkeys, pheasants, and furbearers.

Wildcat Mountain State Park



The area surrounding Wildcat Mountain State Park has a rich history. The tale begins with bluffs full of white pines along the Kickapoo River that eventually transitioned into a productive lumber industry. As the lumber industry subsided, the ginseng business, both foraged and in "seng gardens", grew. The present-day park office was once a ginseng garden.

In 1948, through donations from Vernon County and Amos Theodore Saunders, Wildcat Mountain State Park was established to allow people to explore and appreciate the unspoiled woods of the Upper Kickapoo. As characteristic of the driftless area, the park is filled with winding, steep-sided valleys. This landscape provides for scenic views along hiking and horseback riding trails. Canoeing, kayaking, and fishing are also popular along the Kickapoo River. Wintertime reveals a network of cross-country ski, snowshoe, and snowmobile trails for visitors to wander.

Willow River State Park



The Willow River State Park spans almost 3,000 acres of prairie, forests, and gorgeous river views. Hiking trails encircle the Willow Falls, attracting thousands of visitors each year. In addition to breathtaking views, the park offers picnic areas, playgrounds, and grills for a relaxing summer day in the outdoors. During the wintertime, snowshoeing, dog sledding, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing are common activities.

Wyalusing State Park



Established in 1917, Wyalusing State Park was one of the first state parks to be created. It was conceived from a local and statewide movement to designate a park at the junction of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Layers of sedimentary rock – dolomite, shale, and sandstone – formed bluffs and ridges that now tower above the rivers. The park provides opportunities to adventure on the water as well as absorb the gorgeous landscape of the driftless region.

Over 14 miles of hiking trails traverse the rocky landscape, coupled with two mountain biking trails. Several picnic areas and playgrounds are also available. Boating and fishing are popular along the river backwaters, and offer fantastic fishing for panfish, bass, northern pike, and walleye. In addition to scenic river views, the Lawrence L. Huser Astronomy Center, dedicated in 2003 to Lawrence Huser, also offers humbling views of the night sky.

During the winter, a number of frozen waterfalls dot the park for particularly audacious hiking and snowshoeing visitors.

Kinnickinnic State Park



In the 1960's, as the Twin Cities metropolitan area continued to expand, a number of landowners wanted to preserve the natural beauty of the local landscape. Their impressive commitment led three families to donate 45 acres to the Department of Natural Resources, culminating in the creation of Kinnickinnic State Park.

Resting at the confluence of the St. Croix and Kinnickinnic Rivers, Kinnickinnic State Park provides a diversity of opportunities for both peace-seeking and rambunctious visitors. The Kinnickinnic River Valley hosts a cold-water trout stream with an excellent brown trout population and sanctuary for incredible white pines and towering limestone cliffs. Hundreds of birds, as well as scattered deer, raccoons, mink, fox, squirrels, and rabbits may be seen throughout the park. Miles of hiking trails offer wildlife viewing opportunities. Additionally, the confluence yields a stunning sand delta that is suitable for swimming, boating, and fishing.

Perrot State Park



Perrot State Park is named after Nicholas Perrot, a French explorer who fostered connections between local tribes and European settlers. During his explorations, Perrot and his crew were in search of a winter camp – which led them to stumble upon the woods and bluffs of the present-day Perrot State Park. The site of Perrot's first camp is recognized at the park's entrance.

Today, the park is filled with majestic bluffs characteristic of the driftless region. Thousands of visitors explore these areas, appreciating the natural, awe-inspiring beauty of the Mississippi River Valley. Many of the hiking trails have steep climbs with steps or stairways leading up to scenic outlooks. Over the summer, over 100 kinds of birds can be seen along the trails, making Perrot State Park a popular stop along the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. As the weather warms, big blue and green dragonflies buzz across trails and prairies transition from the fragrant, springtime shooting stars to the blazing compass plants of autumn. For those looking for more water-based recreation, paddling opportunities are plentiful on the Trempealeau River.

Table 5. Selected additional properties in the Mississippi River Corridor Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Buffalo, Trempealeau	Buffalo River State Trail	454
Dunn	Chippewa River State Trail	338
St. Croix	Cylon Wildlife Area	2374
Dunn, Pepin	Dunnville Wildlife Area	4322
Grant	Fenley State Recreation Area	291
La Crosse, Trempealeau	Great River State Trail	256
Vernon	Hillsboro State Trail	66
Dunn	Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area	707
La Crosse	La Crosse River State Trail	361
St. Croix	Lower St Croix State Riverway	202
Buffalo	Merrick State Park	322
Grant	Nelson Dewey State Park	756
Grant	Pecatonica State Trail	242
Dunn	Red Cedar State Trail	427
St. Croix	Ten Mile Creek Wildlife Area	1710
La Crosse, Trempealeau	Van Loon Wildlife Area	3891
Buffalo	Whitman Dam Wildlife Area	2190

WESTERN SANDS

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 221,000 acres in the Western Sands Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Black River State Forest



The Black River State Forest provides many recreational opportunities while also acting as an important area for wildlife habitat, native biological diversity, soil and water quality, aesthetics, and timber production. In 1957, the approximately 68,000-acre forest was established. It encompasses over 12 miles of the swift Black River and its east fork. Remnants of Cambrian sandstone form buttes, hills, knolls, ridges, and pediments through a forest of jack pine, oak, aspen, and several rare and unique forest communities. This unique biological landscape is home to a number of waterfowl, fish, and the Karner blue butterfly.

In addition to being prized for its biological diversity, the forest is also home to a number of recreational opportunities. Hiking and biking trails wind through the forest, as well as ATV, UTV, and motorcyclist opportunities connected to the Jackson County trail system. Day visitors are welcomed with picnic facilities complete with grills, tables, and pit toilets. Hunters may find a range of game, from beavers to black bears to squirrels, within the forest.

Meadow Valley Wildlife Area



Surrounded by a flat expanse of marsh and low sandy ridges, the Meadow Valley Wildlife Area is located in the bed of the ancient Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The land was formerly logged for its white and red pines, but unpredictable growing seasons, poor soil, and large amounts of drainage taxes eventually drove away most loggers. In 1940, the area was leased by the federal government to the State of Wisconsin and is currently administered under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Today's oak, aspen, pine, and mixed forests provide ideal habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, squirrels, wildlife turkey, and furbearers. Hiking, berry picking, and observing wildlife are popular recreational activities.

Mead Wildlife Area



In 1959, the Consolidated Paper Corporation of Wisconsin Rapids donated 20,000 acres to the State of Wisconsin, forming the basis of the Mead Wildlife Area. Today, it is one of the largest wildlife areas in Wisconsin, topping just over 33,000 acres with a diverse landscape of open marshes, hardwood and aspen forests, and grasslands. This diversity creates habitat for an assortment of wildlife ranging from deer and bobcats to herons and prairie chickens.

In addition, wildlife habitat, the area also provides a range of recreational opportunities. These include hunting, trapping, hiking, birding, dog training and trialing, gathering, and cross-country skiing.

Wood County Wildlife Area



Similar to the Meadow Valley and Sandhill Wildlife Areas, the Wood County Wildlife Area rests on the bed of Glacial Lake Wisconsin and is comprised of large expanses of wetland dotted with forested uplands and islands. Pioneer farmers logged and burned the initial land, but high-water tables precluded their progress. In the early 1900's, inhabitants attempted to drain the area – resulting in a series of drainage pipes that are still present today. The poor soils, harsh frosts, and high taxes eventually forced the land into tax delinquency and the county took ownership over the land. Ultimately, the county leased the land to the state for wildlife production and public recreation.

The predominant game species include white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, squirrels, rabbits, snowshoe hares, ducks, and geese. The primary types of recreation available include birding, camping, cross country skiing, hiking, hunting, trapping, wild edibles gathering, and wildlife viewing.

Buena Vista Wildlife Area



The Buena Vista Wildlife Area was purchased for grassland habitat management for the greater prairie chicken; today, it is home to one of the most extensive grasslands east of the Mississippi River and the largest concentration of greater prairie chickens in Wisconsin. The area is also designated an Important Bird Area.

Accordingly, the area provides excellent birding opportunities. Hunting for woodcock, duck, goose, grouse, and mourning dove are especially popular. Cross country skiing, hiking, trapping, wild edibles gathering, and wildlife viewing are also common activities.

Sandhill Wildlife Area



Sitting on the bed of ancient Glacial Lake Wisconsin, the over 9,000-acre Sandhill Wildlife Area is named for its soft, rolling sandy ridges. Oak, aspen, and jack pine forests along with large marshes and many flowages create habitat for American bison, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, Canada geese, ducks, loons, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, and more.

Observation towers give a comprehensive view of the property, interlaced with a series of biking, skiing, and hiking opportunities. Birding, hunting, trapping, wild edible gathering, and wildlife viewing are also popular. An auto tour is available to those driving through the area.

Buckhorn State Park



At the intersection of two wildlife areas, the Wisconsin River, and the Yellow River, Buckhorn State Park sits at a unique confluence of habitat and recreational areas. Before the 1830's, the area was part of Ho Chunk (Winnebago) Indian land and considered "unbroken wilderness". Through a history of logging, agriculture, and dam creation, the present landscape was formed, creating a peninsula with a number of finger-like sloughs. In 1974, the Department of Natural Resources purchased the land to return to "unbroken wilderness".

A diversity of wildlife inhabits the area, including sandhill cranes, muskrats, otters, mink, deer, coyotes, hawks, and more. There is a scenic vista where visitors can walk out into the desert-like regions of the park that were once Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Additionally, several areas are designated for prairie and barrens restoration.

Hiking trails wind through the wetlands, oak woods, jack pine thickets, shoreline, and prairie. Picnic areas and volleyball nets are also available for visitors. Located on a peninsula, Buckhorn State Park's opportunities for water recreation are very popular. Visitors may sail along the open waters of the Castle Rock Flowage, play along the sandy swimming beach, and test their luck fishing in the surrounding waters.

Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area



Cozied up alongside the Ice Age Trail, the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area provides a plethora of hiking, snowshoeing, camping, fishing, and bird watching opportunities. As one of the nine units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, the area provides both scientific and recreational opportunities that showcase the region's unique geology. Ancient glaciers that formed, pushed, and melted in the area ultimately culminated in a 10-mile wide moraine, spotted with lake plains, kettles, and hummocks that characterizes the area today.

Motorized vehicles, bicycles, and horses are prohibited on the property, but over 23 miles of hiking trails wind through the area.

Brunet Island State Park



Situated on the peaceful Chippewa and Fisher rivers, Brunet Island State Park has calm lagoons and channels that are well-suited for canoeing and wildlife watching. Gigantic hemlocks, deer, and grouse inhabit the area and allow for wildlife watching experiences as visitors wander the trails that connect with the Ice Age Trail. However, underlying the serene landscape is a pioneering tale of two impressive folks in a budding industry.

Jean Brunet, a Frenchman, came to America in 1818. He established the first dam and sawmill in Chippewa Falls, opening the region's doors to economic opportunity. After he passed away, Ezra Cornell purchased large amounts of land in the area and expanded the economic prosperity of the region by creating a permanent dam used for a stacker to supply a paper, carboard, and wallboard mill. The Northern States Power Company donated the island to the state in 1936, dedicated to Brunet's memory in 1940. Eventually, in 1971, new technology replaced the stacker and the pond beneath the stacker was filled in, which created the present-day park.

Rib Mountain State Park



Located on one of the highest points in Wisconsin, Rib Mountain State Park is filled with wooded acres, major vistas, and rock outcroppings. The mountain is a four-mile long ridge of ancient quartzite that is around 1.7 billion years old. The iconic ridge has been used by the early Chippewas as a guide and by intrepid pioneers as a potential mine. In 1922, the Wausau Kiwanis Club purchased the land for its recreation potential and donated the land to the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the predecessor of the Department of Natural Resources. In 1927, through a few additional land purchases, Rib Mountain State Park was officially created.

Through years of hard work by the Civilian Conservation Corps and other groups, the mountain has transformed from a thick forest patch into a popular recreation destination. Hiking trails traverse the unique rock formations in the area and an observation tower offers a spectacular perspective on the surrounding land. Camping is no longer available, but the park maintains its status as a fantastic day-use area, complete with an amphitheater with breathtaking views, picnic areas for a relaxing lunch, and gazebos and shelters where reunions and gatherings create memories for a lifetime.

Lake Wissota State Park



Just northeast of Chippewa Falls, Lake Wissota State Park offers over 1,000 acres of forest and prairie alongside a 6,300-acre man-made lake. For campers looking for a more private experience, over 100 secluded, wooded campsites are in the park. A network of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding provide ample opportunities for visitors to explore the property. In the summertime, the lake allows for swimming, boating, and fishing. Beachgoers also have an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine on the swimming beach.

During the winter, miles of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails attract visitors seeking scenic lake views and peaceful adventures. Local snowmobile trails also connect with trails on the property.

Elroy-Sparta State Trail



Lauded as one of the most popular trails in the country, the Elroy-Sparta Trail rose to eminence as the first rail-to-trail in the United States. Weaving 32.5 miles through central Wisconsin, the trail traverses three rock tunnels, five small towns, and an assortment of wetlands, prairies, farmland, and unglaciated areas. Biking and hiking are popular along the trail, with snowmobiling and cross-country skiing available during the wintertime.

Two campgrounds are available for visitors, each with fire rings, picnic tables, hand pumps, and vault toilets. Hunting opportunities are also available along the trail and campgrounds during designated seasons.

Table 6. Selected additional properties in the Western Sands Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Eau Claire, Jackson	Buffalo River State Trail	454
Chippewa	Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Reserve	3724
Chippewa, Eau Claire	Chippewa River State Trail	338
Adams	Colburn Wildlife Area	5020
Adams, Juneau	Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area	1406
Portage	Dewey Marsh Wildlife Area	6055
Monroe	La Crosse River State Trail	361
Marathon	Mc Millan Wildlife Area	5870
Juneau, Monroe	Mill Bluff State Park	1600
Marathon	Mountain Bay State Trail	239
Chippewa	Old Abe State Trail	254
Adams	Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area	12578
Adams	Roche-A-Cri State Park	492
Juneau	Rocky Arbor State Park	244
Chippewa, Marathon, Portage	State Ice Age Trail Areas	2277
Portage	Tomorrow River State Trail	186

LOWER LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 94,000 acres in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit



During the 18th and 19th centuries, the area of the present-day Kettle Moraine State Forest was largely agricultural. In 1920, a growing Wisconsin population created a need for large acres of public land for outdoor recreation and forestry. In 1937, the Kettle Moraine State Forest was created – the Northern Unit being the first and largest unit.

Touching Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, and Washington counties, the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit is a multi-use property stretched over 30,000 acres. Today, the forest provides a number of services, including recreation, sustainable forest products, water quality and soil protection, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, native biological diversity, and aesthetics.

The forest also has over a dozen lakes and ponds, the majority of which are kettles formed during the Wisconsin glaciation. These lakes range in size from 477 to less than seven acres. Many trails wind through this spotted landscape, including 31 miles of the Ice Age Trail, 41 miles of bridle trail for horseback riding, and 60 miles of snowmobile trails.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit



Spanning over 22,000 acres, over 100 miles of mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and hiking trails weave through the Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit. The landscape offers plenty to explore, including glacial hills, kettles, lakes, prairie restoration sites, pine woods, and hardwood forests. The Scuppernon River Habitat Area is the largest wet prairie east of the Mississippi River, and provides over 3,500 acres of refuge for wildlife. Eight other state natural areas are scattered throughout the forest. Coyotes, red foxes, sandhill cranes, and Cooper's Hawks find their home in the landscape, as well as a number of rare species.

The Southern Unit is also unique in its historical significance – the unit has three restored log cabins and American's largest outdoor museum of rural life, Old World Wisconsin. Each cabin tells the stories and journey of those who lived in the cabin.

Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area



Situated in northwestern Washington and northeastern Dodge counties, the Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area provides over 5,500 acres of wetlands, grasslands, woodland, and agricultural land. The marsh was once a glacial lake with a southern outflow. Additional glacial activity shaped the marsh towards the western outlet that exists today. The marsh is largely managed for wildlife production, recreation opportunities, and assistance in waterfowl migration. There are two waterfowl refuges that provide food and resting areas for long distance migrants, and the marsh is especially important for dabbling ducks, including blue-winged teal and wood ducks.

Hunters, birders, and other wildlife enthusiasts spend time within the unique wetland and grassland mosaic, reveling in the assortment of waterfowl attracted to the area.

Richard Bong State Recreation Area



Initially the future site of a jet fighter base, the Richard Bong State Recreation Area has transformed into a rolling landscape for hikers, bikers, motorized recreators, and others. The area is named after Major Richard I. Bong of Poplar, WI, who was an air ace during World War II. However, three days before the runway concrete was to be poured, the air base was abandoned and the inception of the Richard Bong State Recreation Area followed.

The recreation area is made up of grassland, savanna, wetlands, and scattered woodland. Springtime yields beautiful blooms such as white bloodroot and lavender hepatica, flowering into a prairie blazing with color in the summertime.

A special use zone is designated in the park for flying model airplanes, rockets, hang gliders, and hot air balloons. The space is also used for dog training, falconry, and motorized trail recreation. The property is also home to Wolf Lake and an urban fishing pond, providing fishing and swimming as well as picnicking opportunities with a view.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Lapham Peak Unit



The Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine Forest is well-known for its beautiful glaciated topography. Bird and wildlife are present on all trails and guided bird hikes are held each year. Miles of trails provide backpacking, hiking, and

off-road biking opportunities. The unit also boasts several prairie restoration sites, a butterfly garden, and a 45-foot observation tower.

In the wintertime, the forest is a popular destination for those who cross-country ski and snowshoe. Over 17 miles of ski trails exist, with 2.5 miles of trails lighted for night skiing.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Pike Lake Unit



Nestled in the center of the Kettle Moraine chain, the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest mirrors the glacial topography of the other units. Within the unit is a 522-acre, spring-fed kettle that offers an abundance of walleye pike fishing, after which the unit was named. Swimming, boating, and canoeing are permitted on the lake, making for a refreshing summer day trip. Wildflower also paint the trails with color in the summertime, mesmerizing hikers and wildlife alike. Visitors can also climb up Powder Hill, a large glacial kame, for a comprehensive view of the landscape.

Wintertime yields 2.5 miles of cross-country ski trails groomed for both traditional and skate skiing. Winter hiking and snowshoeing are also permitted on parts of the property.

Harrington Beach State Park



Stretching over a mile of coastline along Lake Michigan, Harrington Beach State Park provides a myriad of water related opportunities from sunbathing to swimming. The property's over 700 acres cover a diversity of white cedar and hardwood swamps, old field grasslands with restored wetland ponds, and an iconic limestone quarry lake. Early bloomers include the marsh marigold, and transition into a summer bloom of Queen Anne's lace, asters, and goldenrod. Butterfly and waterfowl migrants pass through the area, pausing to recharge on their long journey.

Dedicated on July 21, 2007, the Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory features a roll-off roof that reveals a 20-inch telescope weighing over 2000 pounds. The telescope has four foci: two Newtonian, one Cassegrain, and one Coude – and provides for a world of interstellar exploration.

Big Foot Beach State Park



Situated on the breathtaking Geneva Lake, Big Foot Beach State Park offers camping, picnicking, and hiking opportunities. Forest and open meadow provide a trail network through a calming landscape. On the water, swimming, boating, and fishing are available. In the winter, the snowshoeing, winter hiking, and cross-country skiing opportunities are popular.

Kohler-Andrae State Park



Shaped by both massive glaciers and ancient seas, Kohler-Andrae State Park offers an amalgam of river marsh, pine and hardwood forests, long beaches, and majestic sand dunes along Lake Michigan. White-tailed deer, red foxes, ground squirrels, and muskrats can be seen wandering through the dunes and marshes. Over 150 birds live in or migrate through the park, providing a spectacular site for viewing diving ducks, hawks, and cranes. The park's hiking trails allow visitors to take a respite from the surrounding urban areas.

Kohler-Andrae is comprised of two separate parks, with John Michael Kohler State Park to the North and Terry Andrae State Park encapsulating the pine dunes to the South. Today, the two properties are considered separate, but managed as one unit. The park hosts an array of campgrounds, picnic areas, a bath house, roads, and a nature center.

Lakeshore State Park



Located in downtown Milwaukee, Lakeshore State Park serves as a pause from the city's hustle and bustle. Hikers, bikers, and skaters can enjoy a view of the Milwaukee skyline while exploring the park's short grass prairies. For boaters, the park has a 20-slip marina for mooring boats up to 60 feet long and opportunities for kayaking within the lagoons. In the wintertime, hiking and snowshoeing are permitted, with possible snowy owl and bunting sightings.

Table 7. Selected additional properties in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Racine	Burlington to Kansasville State Trail	89
Ozaukee	Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area	1677
Washington	Eisenbahn State Trail	11
Milwaukee	Forestry Education and Awareness Center	67
Milwaukee	Hank Aaron State Trail	64
Milwaukee	Havenwoods State Forest	473
Washington	Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area	2526
Washington	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Loew Lake Unit	1097
Walworth, Waukesha	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Mukwonago River Unit	1013
Jefferson, Waukesha	Paradise Valley Wildlife Area	1773
Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha	State Ice Age Trail Areas	827
Walworth	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	1852
Waukesha	Vernon Wildlife Area	4360
Waukesha	Glacial Drumlin State Trail	278
Racine, Walworth	White River State Trail	157

SOUTHERN GATEWAYS

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 206,000 acres in the Southern Gateways Region. Brief descriptions of the larger properties are provided here.

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway



In 1989, the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway was established by a cooperative group comprised of citizens, environmental groups, politicians, and the DNR. Its goal was to serve as a public use area for unique river corridor recreation, maintain the natural and scenic landscape, and promote long-term natural resources management of the area.

The riverway stretches 95,000 acres, with over 45,000 acres in state ownership, and is comprised of one of the longest stretches of free-flowing rivers in the Midwest. Visitors from Wisconsin and beyond flock to the corridor to embrace its characteristic broad waters, islands and sandbars, sloughs, wetlands and floodplain forests, prairies, and flanking hills and bluffs. Recreational activities are available in a lightly developed setting.

Horicon Wildlife Area



Situated in southeast Wisconsin at a size of 33,000 acres, Horicon Marsh is the nation's largest freshwater cattail marsh; it has been formally recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations. A wildlife education program was started in the mid-1980's, and still remains strong today with programs designed to share native wildlife with a wide range of individuals.

In the early 1900's, the area was ditched and drained for agriculture. In the 1920's and 40's, both the state and federal management units were established as waterfowl nesting and migratory resting areas. Redhead ducks, mallards, and teals flock in the area. The busiest times of year are during the spring and fall migrations, during which over 200,000 birds pass through the marsh. The expansive wetland also provides habitat for different kinds of mammals, fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, insects, and plants.

One of the best ways to explore the marsh is via canoe or boat. Four boat landings provide access to the marsh, and canoes are only permitted on the state managed parcel. The Horicon Marsh Canoe Trail connects two landings and has an interpretive guide to help direct that trip.

Devil's Lake State Park



Established in 1911, Devil's Lake is the third oldest state park in Wisconsin, and carries a chronicle of stories and legends for a lifetime. The views from its 500-foot quartzite bluffs are spectacular, featuring the esteemed 360-acre Devil's Lake. Millions of visitors flock from Wisconsin and beyond to soak in these views, enjoy the water, and traverse the prairie and woodland area at the base of the bluffs. Devil's Lake is Wisconsin's most visited state park.

The unique geology and topography of Devil's Lake State Park make it a hotspot for a diversity of recreational activities. Rock climbing and scuba diving are two uncommon activities in state parks, but very prevalent at Devil's Lake. Furthermore, lakeshore picnic areas, sandy swimming beaches, and 29 miles of hiking trails provide a plethora of opportunity for visitors both old and young, adventurous and timid.

As the lake freezes in the winter, visitors turn to ice fishing, dog sledding, igloo building, snowshoeing, and skiing. Brown trout, northern pike, and other fish inhabit the chilly waters during this season.

Pine Island Wildlife Area



Located just west of Portage, the Pine Island Wildlife Area is comprised of over 5,400 acres of wetland, grassland, oak-savanna, and woodland habitats. The area is nestled in the floodplains of the Wisconsin and Baraboo Rivers, encompassing several islands of the Wisconsin River. One of the largest islands used to harbor a significant stand of white pine, hence the name "Pine Island". However, over time, these pines were removed for the construction of barns.

From a natural perspective, the 1940's and 50's saw several hundred Canada geese that consistently used the area. Today, it is home to many endangered species of reptile, bird, and insect, and more common species such as whitetail deer and wild turkey. Pine Island has also recently been established as an Important Bird Area due to its impressive grasslands.

Governor Dodge State Park



With over 5,000 acres of steep hills, bluffs, deep valleys, two lakes, and a waterfall, Governor Dodge State Park has found a warm welcome in the scenic driftless area of southwestern Wisconsin. Over 40 miles of hiking trails and 8 miles of off-road bicycling trails provide plenty of non-motorized opportunity for visitors to explore the park's rugged terrain. Fall foliage brings flocks of visitors to admire the warm colors and calm waters.

The park is home to two lakes – Cox Hollow and Twin Valley. These provide opportunities for water-related recreation, such as swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. The park has also made itself an equestrian hotspot, offering 22 miles of bridle trails and a number of horse campsites.

In the fall, hunting and trapping are permitted during the standard hunting and trapping time frame. Winter time reveals over 12 miles of ski, hiking, and snowshoeing trails. A 15-mile snowmobile trail connects with the 40-mile Military Ridge trail to provide a maze of paths to explore. The rugged terrain also makes the park a playground for visitors with sleds or toboggans, provided there is adequate snowfall.

Mirror Lake State Park



Near the Wisconsin Dells, this 2,200-acre parcel contains a diversity of shoreline, wooded area, and cliffs that provide gorgeous views. Dell Creek winds through the park and flows into Mirror Lake, the park's centerpiece whose surface rarely sees ripples. Over time, the creek cut away at the landscape's thick, soft sandstone; ultimately, the creek helped shaped the incredible geology of the park. Surrounding the lake are pine and oak woods, further encircled by sandy prairies and former farm fields. Common mammals include deer, raccoons, squirrels, bats, chipmunks, and muskrats. The marshes, open fields, and lakeshore topography also provide habitat for a variety of bird life.

To explore this unique geology, visitors may embark on adventures on over 19 miles of hiking trails and nine miles of off-road biking trails. In the winter, cross-country ski trails are available. Visitors may also explore via water through boating, canoeing, kayaking on the slow-no-wake lake, and swimming from the beach. Fishing, hunting, and trapping are also permitted at the park during designated times.

Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area



During World War II, the Sauk Prairie Recreation area was designated as an army ammunition plant for manufacturing nitrocellulose-based propellants. Today, the land is decommissioned and used for hunting, trapping, birding, photography, mushroom and berry picking, and nature study. (property webpage). The grassland that resulted from massive land use changes through the war provides a haven for many birds, including meadowlarks, bobolinks, bobwhite quail, and dickcissels. Conservation and research groups have also used the land for scientific purposes.

Blue Mound State Park



Resting on top of the highest point in southern Wisconsin, Blue Mound State Park has stunning views of the driftless region and an observation tower from which visitors can see miles and miles.

The forest and surrounding prairies of the park are home to squirrels, chipmunks, woodchucks, and raccoons. White-tailed deer are the largest mammal, and tiny spotted fawns can be seen in the summer months. These prairies also harbor a spectacular flower show from April through September, with blood root, mayapple, anemones, buttercups, violets, and wild geranium leading the spring blossom. The autumn season reveals maple and oak trees with brilliant yellow and deep crimson leaves.

Three hiking-only trails traverse the park, along with 15.5 miles of challenging off-road, single-track bicycle trails. Groomed cross-country ski trails are popular in the winter, as is sledding and snowshoeing. In the summertime, picnic areas, a horseshoe court, sandboxes, playgrounds, and an aquatic center provide plenty of amenities for visitors to explore. Camping is comprised of about 77 wooded sites, 12 bike/hike-in sites, and a rustic accessible cabin for people with disabilities.

Yellowstone Lake State Park



Tucked in the depths of the driftless area, Yellowstone Lake State Park is a 1,000-acre sanctuary for the 455-acre Yellowstone Lake. The lake is a common stopover for many different types of waterfowl – including wood ducks, mallards, and Canadian geese. During the summer, the lake is also home to over 4,000 little brown bats, nestled in bat houses throughout the park. These houses act as nurseries, where the bats raise their pups.

Adjacent to the much larger Yellowstone Wildlife Area, which provides shooting and horseback riding opportunities, Yellowstone Lake State Park provides miles of trails for hiking, biking, and exploring. The lake provides opportunities for fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming. Hunting and trapping are also permitted during the standard season.

Wintertime may reveal visitors adventuring on groomed and tracked cross-country ski trails, or on snowmobile trails that connect with Lafayette County trails.

Governor Nelson State Park



Located a short drive away from the heart of Madison, Governor Nelson is a day use park that offers a sand beach, boat launch, fish cleaning facility, picnic areas, and playground equipment. Although much of the historic prairie and oak savanna of southern Wisconsin has been converted, Governor Nelson State Park houses a number of prairie restoration efforts in the open grass and marsh areas of the park. Animals and wildlife are abundant along the trails in these areas. The park also holds historical and cultural significance, as Native American effigy mounds can be seen on the trails.

In the winter, the park provides a haven for diagonal and skate skiers, providing trails from easy to moderate difficulty. When snow conditions are favorable to cross-country skiing, the trails are closed to hikers.

Lake Kegonsa State Park



Lake Kegonsa State Park is home to the peaceful Lake Kegonsa, which gets its name from the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Indians who called it the “Lake of Many Fishes”. The lake today is over 3,000 acres, 30 feet deep, and home to a number of fish. A part of the famous “4-Lakes” of the Madison area – including Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa, Lake Kegonsa was similarly covered by a glacier and ultimately formed when glacial debris was deposited as the glacier receded.

The restored prairie surrounding the lake is home to a variety of native prairie plants, flowers, birds, and wildlife. It is managed by controlled burning. The prairie has more than five miles of hiking trails. These trails also run along the lakeshore, providing access to boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and fishing opportunities. Hunting and trapping is limited to archery only.

Winter time offers an abundance of recreation at Lake Kegonsa State Park. Cross-country ski trails are groomed and tracked. Other trails provide hiking and snowshoeing opportunities. On the lake, ice fishing is excellent and panfish and walleyes are often caught. A hill is also available for sledding.

Aztalan State Park



Aztalan State Park is designated as a National Historic Landmark. It contains one of Wisconsin's most important archaeological sites – an ancient Middle-Mississippian village that flourished from A.D. 1000 to 1300. The large, flat-topped pyramidal mounds and stockades are visible today; portions of the stockade and two mounds have been reconstructed. The area remains dotted with artifacts such as clay pots, arrow points, figures of a Mississippian deity, shell beads, and other stone and copper decorations.

On this sacred land, there exists opportunity for non-invasive recreation. Hiking and picnicking is available during the summer, transitioning to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. The nearby Crawfish River allows fishing, boating, canoeing, and kayaking. For wildlife enthusiasts, hunting and trapping are permitted during the fall.

Table 8. Selected additional properties in the Southern Gateways Region.

County	Property Name	Acres
Sauk	400 State Trail	410
Dane, Green	Badger State Trail	534
Columbia, Sauk	Baraboo Hills State Recreation Area	3193
Lafayette	Belmont Mound State Park	274
Green, Dane	Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area	1031
Dane	Cross Plains State Park	157
Columbia	French Creek Wildlife Area	3506
Dane, Jefferson	Glacial Drumlin State Trail	725
Jefferson	Holzhueter Farm State Park	3
Columbia	Mackenzie Center	619
Dane, Iowa	Military Ridge State Trail	516
Dodge	Mud Lake Wildlife Area	4720
Sauk	Natural Bridge State Park	530
Green	New Glarus Woods State Park	415
Lafayette	Pecatonica State Trail	242
Columbia	Peter Helland Wildlife Area	3544
Columbia, Dane, Rock, Sauk	State Ice Age Trail Areas	1125
Dane, Green	Sugar River State Trail	265
Iowa	Tower Hill State Park	77
Dodge, Jefferson	Waterloo Wildlife Area	4526
Lafayette	Yellowstone Wildlife Area	4048

